

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION**

**RONNIE TURNER,** §  
Petitioner, §  
§  
v. §  
§  
**DEE ANDERSON, Sheriff,** §  
**Tarrant County, Texas,** §  
Respondent. §

**Civil Action No. 4:05-CV-651-Y**

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
AND NOTICE AND ORDER**

This cause of action was referred to the United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), as implemented by an order of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. The findings, conclusions and recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge are as follows:

**I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**A. NATURE OF THE CASE**

This action was construed as a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241.

**B. PARTIES**

Petitioner Ronnie Turner, CID #0183591, is a state prisoner in custody of the Sheriff of Tarrant County.

Respondent Dee Anderson is the Sheriff of Tarrant County, Texas.

**C. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

At the time this petition was filed, Turner was a pretrial detainee awaiting trial in Tarrant County, Texas, in Case Nos. 0941085 and 0941089. (Petition at 3; Resp't Motion to Dismiss, Exhibit 1.) On November 2, 2005, a jury found Turner guilty of one or more of the charged

offenses, and the trial court assessed his punishment at forty-five years' confinement. (*Id.*) Turner filed a notice of appeal on the same date. (*Id.*, Exhibit 2.)

#### D. RULE 5 STATEMENT

Anderson has filed a motion to dismiss supported by a brief and documentary exhibits, arguing solely that the petition should be dismissed without prejudice because Turner has failed to exhaust his state remedies as to the claims presented. (Resp't Motion to Dismiss 1-3.)

#### E. EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES IN STATE COURT

Applicants seeking habeas corpus relief under § 2254 are required to exhaust all claims in state court before requesting federal collateral relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1), (c)<sup>1</sup>; *Fisher v. Texas*, 169 F.3d 295, 302 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999). The exhaustion requirement is satisfied when the substance of the federal habeas claim has been fairly presented to the highest court of the state. *O'Sullivan v. Boerckel*, 526 U.S. 838, 842-48 (1999); *Fisher*, 169 F.3d at 302; *Carter v. Estelle*, 677 F.2d 427, 443 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). For purposes of exhaustion, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is the highest court

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<sup>1</sup>The terms of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b) and (c) provide in pertinent part as follows:

(b)(1) An application for a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court shall not be granted unless it appears that —

(A) the applicant has exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the State; or

(B)(i) there is an absence of available State corrective process; or

(ii) circumstances exist that render such process ineffective to protect the rights of the applicant.

(c) An applicant shall not be deemed to have exhausted the remedies available in the courts of the State, within the meaning of this section, if he has the right under the law of the State to raise, by any available procedure, the question presented.

in the state. *Richardson v. Procunier*, 762 F.2d 429, 431 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985). Thus, a Texas prisoner may satisfy the exhaustion requirement by presenting both the factual and legal substance of his claims to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in a petition for discretionary review or, as in this instance, a post-conviction state habeas corpus proceeding pursuant to article 11.07 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 11.07 (Vernon 2005).

Turner's claims have not been properly exhausted in state court. Turner's direct appeal remains pending in the intermediate state appellate court, and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has had no opportunity to review his claims and render a decision. Accordingly, a ruling from the federal court at this juncture would preempt the state court from performing its proper function. *See Rose v. Lundy*, 455 U.S. 509, 518 (1982) (the exhaustion requirement is "designed to protect the state courts' role in the enforcement of federal law and prevent the disruption of state judicial proceedings").

Turner must first pursue his claims by way of a petition for discretionary review or state postconviction writ of habeas corpus. Only after his state remedies are concluded may he attack his conviction or sentence in this court by way of a federal petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. *See id.* Absent a showing that state remedies are inadequate, such showing not having been demonstrated, Turner cannot now proceed in this court in habeas corpus. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254; *Fuller v. Florida*, 473 F.2d 1383, 1384 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1973); *Frazier v. Jones*, 466 F.2d 505, 506 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1972). Dismissal of this federal habeas corpus proceeding for lack of exhaustion is warranted so that Turner can fully exhaust his state remedies and then return to this court, if he so desires, after exhaustion has been properly and fully accomplished.

### **III. RECOMMENDATION**

It is therefore recommended that Anderson's motion to dismiss be granted and that Turner's petition for writ of habeas corpus be dismissed without prejudice, except as to any application of the federal statute of limitations or other federal procedural bar that may apply.

### **IV. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT TO PROPOSED FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION AND CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO OBJECT**

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), each party to this action has the right to serve and file specific written objections in the United States District Court to the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation within ten (10) days after the party has been served with a copy of this document. The court is extending the deadline within which to file specific written objections to the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation until January 18, 2006. The United States District Judge need only make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation to which specific objection is timely made. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(B)(1). Failure to file by the date stated above a specific written objection to a proposed factual finding or legal conclusion will bar a party, except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice, from attacking on appeal any such proposed factual finding or legal conclusion accepted by the United States District Judge. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996) (en banc op. on reh'g); *Carter v. Collins*, 918 F.2d 1198, 1203 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990).

### **IV. ORDER**

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, it is ORDERED that each party is granted until January 18, 2006, to serve and file written objections to the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings,

conclusions, and recommendation. It is further ORDERED that if objections are filed and the opposing party chooses to file a response, a response shall be filed within seven (7) days of the filing date of the objections.

It is further ORDERED that the above-styled and numbered action, previously referred to the United States Magistrate Judge for findings, conclusions, and recommendation, be and hereby is returned to the docket of the United States District Judge.

SIGNED December 21, 2005.

/s/ Charles Bleil  
CHARLES BLEIL  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE